**Environmental Issue:** Andorra Natural Area in the Wissahickon is starting a native plant nursery so they can grow trees and shrubs to reforest the park. Plants are used around the world for medicines, food, dyes, textiles and fuel. In the NE United States, people have traditionally used both plant and tree products. However, the general public knows very little about local native plants here in Philadelphia. Andorra Natural Area is looking for students to research Bee Bomb, Purple Aster, Lobelia and other native plants to find out how they have traditionally been used, how they are grown and what animals depend on these species. Students may design waterproof, sun proof outdoor signs for the new nursery using the information they have found. How would you persuade people that native plants are important to put into their yards and the park?

**Chapters in Textbook:**
- Ch 4 Biological Communities (connections between plants and animals)
- Ch 5 Biomes (temperate deciduous forest)
- Ch 13 Biodiversity: This is on reserve in Gutman Library under Dr. Bockarie’s name

**Internet Sources:**
- Pennsylvania Flora Project: [http://www.upenn.edu/paflora/](http://www.upenn.edu/paflora/)

**Title:** Native Plant Sign Design and Research

**Dates:** Four students will work in a group and come weekly (or as needed) to Andorra Natural Area during their hours of operation: 9:30 am to 4 pm M-F.

**Site Supervisor:** Marie Tramontina, Environmental Educator
Andorra Natural Area- Tree House
Northwestern Ave
Wissahickon Park
Philadelphia, PA 19118
215-685-9285

**On-Campus Coordinator:** Dr. Bockarie
Office: Search Hall 312
Mailbox: Search Hall 310
Email: BockarieA@philau.edu
Office hours: MWF 9-10 am
215-951-2877

**Description:** Students will use the library databases and Internet resources to research the biology and history of maple sugaring in the NE United States. They will make copies and share the information with Marie. They may help demonstrate maple tapping, candy making, tell historical stories of maple production or do other activities about tree biology with school groups at Andorra Nature Center. In addition, they may construct and man a booth about some aspect of maple tapping at Sap Sunday, conduct games for families or give tours to the public of a maple grove as it is being tapped. Students must be willing to work outside in cold weather, be willing to talk to the public and work as part of a team with schoolchildren.

**Directions:**

**By Bus:** From Philadelphia University take 32 Bus on Henry (North or out of the city) up to Ridge and Lyceum (15minutes). Get a transfer pass from the driver when you pay and tell him/her you want the 27 bus next. Wait approximately 15 minutes depending on schedule. Transfer to the 27 bus going North (must say on front of bus: Barren Hill) and exit at Friendly’s Ice Cream Restaurant north of Ridge Ave and Bell’s Mill Rd (16 minutes). Walk behind Friendly’s to Northwestern Ave and follow the Fairmount Park Signs 0.6 mile to the Andorra Nature Center upper parking lot. Walk down the park trail to the treehouse.

Septa’s estimate of time from the University to the Tree House: 45 minutes to 1 hour
Septa’s estimate of cost per trip: $2 one-way or $4 round trip

**By Car:** From Philadelphia University’s main campus turn right on Henry Ave and cross the Henry Ave bridge next to campus. Continue north past where Henry Ave joins Ridge Ave (Andorra Shopping Center on your right). Pass Bells Mill Rd, which leads into the Wissahickon Park. Turn right immediately after Friendly’s Restaurant on Northwestern Ave. Drive 0.6 mile to the end of the road. Andorra Nature Center upper parking lot is on your right. Park and follow the trail down the hill to the treehouse.

Estimated driving time: 20 minutes
Estimated driving distance: 10 miles